



# Valley Volunteer

## New Logo, New Look



The National Park Service Volunteers-In-Parks program is sporting a new look. In January the new volunteer logo was unveiled, updating the look and incorporating the new NPS arrowhead. NPS Director, Fran Mainella, said, "Keeping our volunteer program fresh and exciting is an important form of recognition. I am very pleased with the new VIP look and the direction in which the program is going."

Over the course of a two-year transition period, you will see more of the new logo as we retire the previous logo. New items and patches will be distributed for appropriate wear as we receive them.

Updating the logo gives us an opportunity to reflect on what it means to be a National Park Service Volunteer: taking pride in our uniform, ourselves, and the jobs we do while in uniform. Volunteers are often the first or only point of contact that visitors may have in the park. Visitors look to volunteers for information and orientation to the park. The uniform helps visitors to recognize volunteers as helpful, knowledgeable individuals. Visitors see the appearance of VIPs

and staff as an extension of CVNP's customer service.

To help keep CVNP's outstanding level of customer service, we must keep our appearance sharp. Uniforms should be neat; shirts should be tucked in and wrinkle free. Khaki pants with a belt and closed toe shoes will complete your VIP uniform. Accessories should not detract from your uniform. Remember first impressions are often lasting impressions.

If you have any questions or concerns about how to wear your uniform appropriately, contact your volunteer supervisor or the volunteer office at (440) 546-5996.

## Save the Date!

Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) and Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association (CVNPA) will honor its volunteers Saturday, September 18, at Happy Days Visitor Center. This annual event is held to recognize volunteers who contribute significant hours to the volunteer

program. There will be mingling, hors d'oeuvres, a short program, and an awards ceremony. Due to space limitations only volunteers who have completed 20 or more hours of service between October 1, 2003 and September 1, 2004 will receive an invitation to this event.

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**Cuyahoga Valley  
National Park**



Volunteers at Lock 38 Demonstration. Photo by Beth Rush.

# Welcome

CVNP announces **Chris Ryan** as the new Chief Ranger of Visitor and Resource Protection. Chris has worked for the NPS since 1986 in Alaska, Missouri, Illinois, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Arizona, and Mississippi. He has recently transferred from Gulf Islands National Seashore, where he served as District Ranger. Chris and his wife, Joanne, have two children and reside in Kent.

**Rich Eshenaur** has 11 years of NPS experience at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore where he was a Special Events Team Leader for the Midwest Region. He comes to CVNP to work as a Law Enforcement (LE) Park Ranger.

**Robert Hipp** has two years of experience and is transferring from Independence National Historic Park. He has an interest in bike patrol and will work here as an LE Park Ranger.

# Happy Trails

**Roy Beasley**, long time Administrative Officer at CVNP, has retired. Roy's 36-year career with the National Park Service included assignments as Historian, Park Ranger, Chief of Visitor Services, Superintendent, and Administrative Officer. Roy and his wife, Juanita, hope to relocate to Mississippi when she retires.

**Eddie Dengg**, CVNP Botanist, has taken a job with the Trust for Public Land in Cleveland. He worked for the National Park Service for about 5 years. With a Doctorate in Jurisprudence, he will be negotiating agreements to protect special places in Ohio.

**Sharon Judson**, CVNP VIP Program Manager, spent nearly 15 years building the park's volunteer program into the premier Volunteers-In-Parks Program in the Midwest Region. The VIP program is a great example of how important community support is to a successful park. Sharon has been recognized with several awards during her career, as well as being respected by the local volunteer organization community for her important work in promoting volunteerism. Congratulations to Sharon Judson on her recent retirement!



## What's in a Map?

Maps are useful tools to help us find our way. A map in its most basic form consists of a series of points, lines, and areas that together represent our perception of the real world. Of course it was disappointing when I visited Akron for the first time and could not locate the giant tires that were so obvious on my map. I am, however, still looking forward to visiting that giant Hershey's Kiss that is due west of Philadelphia on the same map!

Fortunately we live in a time when the quality and quantity of information about the world around us -- geographic information -- is expanding at an astonishing rate. It is now possible to make maps in minutes from information freely available on the Internet: maps so packed with information accessible with only a few mouse clicks that they are no longer just maps. They are "smart maps."

GIS has been around for years, but the digital age has created, and continues to create, many new applications for the technology. GIS is a kind of super map computer software that links geographic information (where things are) with descriptive information (what things are like). Unlike a flat paper map, where what you see is what you get, a GIS map can have many layers of information underneath its surface.

That descriptive information is virtually unlimited in both depth and breadth. If you look at a river on a paper map, about all you will see is a name and line representing its shape.

If you click on the same river on a computerized GIS map, you might find not only its name, but also its length, width, depth, the quality of the water, whether it is safe to swim, fish, or canoe in, where it flows, and who owns the rights to its use.

Governments and industries now use GIS worldwide in ways unimaginable just a few years ago. This has resulted in GIS integration within many disciplines that use it to analyze and visualize geographic information.

For park users GIS has become an integral part of the decision-making and public service process. As the next logical step in the development of the park's GIS program, we are building Internet-based applications to make it a little easier to find your way to the park's geographic information.

If you would like to help us develop our web mapping capabilities by updating our databases or designing new web pages, or if you are currently a volunteer who would like access to the park's web mapping website (with supervisor approval), please call Anthony Gareau at (440) 546-5978.



Trailblazers hike the Old Carriage Trail.

## Fundamentals Training Starts

CVNP is offering a new training for all Volunteers-In-Parks (VIPs). Fundamentals: Becoming Stewards, an Introduction to National Park Service Volunteerism is a brief introduction to volunteering for CVNP, helping to orient VIPs to the park geographically, structurally, divisionally, and operationally.

Though most positions will require additional training specific to the job, we are hopeful that the Fundamentals Training will ensure that all VIPs are receiving the necessary information before they begin their assignments and that we will be able to eliminate repetitive training sessions.

The two-hour training will be comprised of four basic units: the

Mission of the National Park Service (NPS), Orientation to CVNP, Communication Procedures within CVNP, and Volunteerism.

Though the training will be required for all new volunteers, we feel strongly that all volunteers will benefit from the information being provided. You are only required to attend one session.

The third quarter 2004 dates are Sunday, August 8, 2 - 4 p.m. or Tuesday, August 10, 7 - 9 p.m. If you are interested in attending one of the trainings, please contact the Volunteer Office at (440) 546-5996 or [cuva\\_vip\\_coordinator@nps.gov](mailto:cuva_vip_coordinator@nps.gov).

## American Red Cross Trainings

The park is offering First Aid (FA), Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and Preventing Disease Transmission (PDT) classes at Happy Days Visitor Center to keep our VIPs current on certifications.

Employees or VIPs, with supervisory approval, can register for classes by phone at (440) 546-5909 or by email at [sharon\\_malumphy@partner.nps.gov](mailto:sharon_malumphy@partner.nps.gov). Registration for each class closes two days before the date of the class.

### AUGUST

Tuesday 8/17 - FA/PDT  
(8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

Wednesday 8/18 - CPR/AED/PDT  
(8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Saturday 8/21 - CPR/AED/PDT  
(8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.)

Sunday 8/22 - FA/PDT  
(8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.)

### SEPTEMBER

Sunday 9/12 - CPR/AED/PDT  
(8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.)

Tuesday 9/21 - FA/PDT  
(8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

Wednesday 9/22 - CPR/AED/PDT  
(8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.)



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) protects 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting.

#### Cuyahoga Valley National Park

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Brecksville, OH 44141

#### Phone

(216) 524-1497  
(800) 445-9667

#### E-mail

[cuva\\_info@nps.gov](mailto:cuva_info@nps.gov)

#### Internet

[www.nps.gov/cuva](http://www.nps.gov/cuva)  
[www.dayinthevalley.com](http://www.dayinthevalley.com)

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# Invasive Plants Update

When you take a springtime stroll in the woods, green is good, right? As long as the ground around you is springing to life in verdant hues, the forest is healthy, right? Well, maybe not.

Natural lands around the world are being invaded by plants which were transported beyond their native range by humans. The vast majority of these plants are harmless and either stay where they are planted or else integrate into the natural plant communities of their adopted homes.

A small percentage of these non-native plant species spread aggressively in their new environment, unchecked by the natural processes that kept them in balance with other plants in their native ranges. Such plants are considered non-native invasive species when they threaten native plant communities.

CVNP is home to more than a dozen of these terrible trespassers. Plants such as purple loosestrife and common reed grass crowd native plants out of wetlands, leaving an

altered, less diverse community in their wake.

Garlic mustard and bush honeysuckles spread into the forests of the park, out-competing the native shrubs and wildflowers for sunlight, water, nutrients, and space. Large areas of the park are infested with these and other non-native invasive plants.

The park's most sensitive resource areas are still either uninfested or very lightly infested with these menacing plants. This means that while certain areas of the park are overrun with invasive plants, we are very likely to be successful in keeping the best areas healthy.



Employee Laura Elze and a volunteer work together.

With the help of the Akron Garden Club and members of the Volunteer Senior Ranger Corps, last year over 100 volunteers helped us to map the extent of these invasive plants in our most endangered natural areas, and manually removed many small infestations. Their work has provided a solid foundation, which will help to ensure these critical areas remain ecologically healthy. The foundation is in place, but the work has just begun.

This year we will continue these efforts by providing the opportunity for volunteers to help with long-term stewardship of these areas by hand pulling, cutting, and digging these plants out. Regularly scheduled work sessions will be arranged throughout the summer on both weekends and weekdays. Individuals and organized groups are equally welcome to help us deal with this growing problem while learning about the natural resources of the park. To be included on the mailing list (either mail or email) for these opportunities, contact the volunteer office at [cuva\\_vip\\_coordinator@nps.gov](mailto:cuva_vip_coordinator@nps.gov) or (440) 546-5996.

## The Story on Flooding

Heavy rains in July, 2003 and May, 2004 flooded Cuyahoga Valley National Park. While there are many perceived negatives to floods, there is more to them than first meets the eye.

### Why does flooding occur?

Floods are entirely natural events. They usually occur where we expect flooding- areas known as floodplains. A floodplain is the relatively flat land beside a lake or river, naturally prone to flooding if any overflow occurs. It is really part of the water's living space, which it uses periodically to stretch and spread out. Flooding occurs when the volume of water in a river or stream exceeds the capacity of the channel.

### What are the benefits of flooding for natural resources?

Natural flood regimes are beneficial to natural systems. Flooding is necessary for the survival and health of significant segments of the ecosystem. Floodplains are subjected to long-term cycles of high or low water, as well as to rapid seasonal fluctuations of water levels. The ecology of floodplains, rivers, streams, and lakes has evolved with annual and longer-term flooding cycles.

Wetlands and shallow surface water, in particular, rely on the fluctuation of water levels to maintain their ecological balance and productivity. (Continued on page 7)



Rockside Station, May 22 Flooding. Photo by L. Blanchard.

## Countryside Farmers' Market

Located in the historic setting of Peninsula's oldest family farm and surrounded by CVNP, the Countryside Farmers' Market (CFM) offers superior quality food grown by local farmers, as well as baked goods, honey, cheeses, coffee, and many other interesting and unusual items. The CFM opened in Peninsula on Saturday, June 19, and will be open each Saturday through October 23, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. The CFM is envisioned as a community resource touching and enriching the lives of those who live around and visit CVNP.

CFM is a joint venture of Cuyahoga Valley Countryside Conservancy (CVCC) and Heritage Farms. CVCC is a private non-profit partner of CVNP, working to revitalize 25-30 of the surviving farms on park land. Heritage Farms, located at 6050 Riverview Road, ½ mile south of State Route 303, is well known for growing and selling Christmas trees, daylilies, and pumpkins.

Each week Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association (CVNPA) will have a booth to represent the park and park partners (including Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad and Stanford Hostel). CVNPA staff and park volunteers will operate the booth. Stop by the CVNPA booth each week at the Countryside Farmers' Market to get the latest information on upcoming events, purchase merchandise, or just to say hello.



**Cuyahoga Valley  
Countryside  
Conservancy**

## Support Your Park: Become a Member!

CVNPA, in partnership with CVNP, provides innovative education and fosters community awareness, support, and enjoyment of the park.

CVNPA advocates and educates on behalf of Ohio's unique national park, reaching out to build membership, develop quality educational and new volunteer programs, coordinate efforts with other partner organizations, increase fundraising, and encourage enjoyment and participation in the many diverse opportunities available in the park. CVNPA works to enhance the park through events, projects, and programs such as the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center, Cuyahoga Valley Heritage Series,

Photographic Society, Nature Writers, and the Artist-In-Residence Program.

You can be involved in the activities of CVNPA by becoming a member. Members receive diverse benefits, including discounts on selected concerts and a copy of the quarterly *Schedule of Events* delivered to their homes. To become a member, simply fill out the form below, enclose payment, and mail to the address provided. For more information on membership levels and benefits, visit [www.cvnpa.org](http://www.cvnpa.org) or call (330) 657-2909.



**Cuyahoga Valley  
National Park  
Association**

### Join CVNPA and help protect and support your national park!

#### Membership Program Levels

<input type="checkbox"/> Earth (Individual)	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock (Family)	\$45
<input type="checkbox"/> River	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Meadow	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Forest	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Sky	\$1000

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check Enclosed (payable to CVNPA)

☐ Charge my ☐Visa ☐MC ☐Discover ☐AMEX

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail membership form to:

CVNPA  
4570 Akron-Peninsula Road  
Peninsula, OH 44264

# Current Volunteer Opportunities

**Visitor Center** - Operate visitor center information desks. Tasks include greeting visitors, providing basic park information and orientation, answering telephones, and working sales areas. Contact Rebecca Jones at (330) 657-2753.

**Tract Trekkers** - Conduct resource inventories documenting natural and cultural features, identify species of flora and fauna, post boundaries and buffer areas. Contact Dave Vasarhelyi at (440) 546-5958.

**Special Programs** - Help set up/clean up for automobile shows, antique bicycle show, and antique tractor show. During the programs volunteers will greet visitors and provide basic information and orientation to the park. Contact Tom Nash at (330) 657-2309.

**Geology Volunteers** - Help do field checks and map reading to account for accuracy of maps. Contact Tom Nash at (330) 657-2309.



**Actors and Actresses** - Enthusiastic actors and actresses wanted to participate in first person interpretive programs for campers and the general public. Contact Volunteer Office at (440) 546-5996.

**Student Explorer** - Assist in presentation of an interpretive Underground Railroad program for students. September 22 - 24, September 29 - October 1, 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Need not be available for all dates. There will be training in August.

Contact Pam Machuga at (330) 657-1914.

**Adopt-A-Trail** - Assist with maintaining safe and well-groomed trails. Crews meet monthly to sweep different trails. Contact Volunteer Office at (440) 546-5996.



**Fire Extinguishers** - Help with monthly check of all park fire extinguishers. Must be available during the day Wednesdays or Fridays. Contact Blane Dolges at (440) 546-5955.

**Night Hike Leader** - Lead night hikes for resident program school groups and weekend groups. Tuesday and Wednesday during the school year, some weekend evenings. Must be fingerprinted prior to first program and pass a background check if over 18. Must have first aid/CPR training prior to first program. Training in late September. Contact Heather Vagi at (330) 657-2796 ext. 112.

**Speakers Bureau** - Help promote Cuyahoga Valley National Park and CVNPA, make presentations to community groups and schools, and participate in special events. Strong communication and public speaking skills required. Training provided. 2-8 hours per month time commitment requested. Contact Joanna Caley at (330) 657-2909 ext. 106.

**Office Assistant** - Help CVNPA staff with general office duties including copying, faxing, filing, organizing work areas, data entry, database management, answering telephones, and making non-soliciting calls. Assist in the preparation of CVNPA mailings by folding brochures, stuffing envelopes, stamping, and labeling. Strong organization and office skills, multi-task orientation, and flexibility required. Training provided. 3-5 hours per week time commitment requested. Contact Joanna Caley at (330) 657-2909 ext. 106.

**Gardener** - Help create and maintain flowerbeds and rock gardens at Environmental Education Center. 2-4 hours per week during the growing season. Contact Jim Sharps at (330) 657-2796 ext. 213.

**Courier** - Pick up and deliver locked donation box and/or materials as required from designated locations and deliver to CVNPA headquarters. Valid driver's license, ability to lift up to 25 pounds, and independent work habits required. Volunteer will use his or her own car. Training provided. 2-4 hours per week time commitment requested. Contact Joanna Caley at (330) 657-2909 ext. 106.

**Media Relations** - Assist CVNP and CVNPA staff in implementing media campaigns. Compile and maintain a current catalog of media contacts and outlets, research potential new media sources, assist with press releases, and help provide information to media outlets. Must have Internet research ability, word processing skills, strong communication skills, and be organized. Training will be provided. Eight hours per week time commitment requested. Contact Colleen Brown at (440) 546-5992.

**Towpath Tags** - Greet park guests, answer questions, offer information on park resources, and promote CVNPA membership as a way to support the park. Solicit support for the Towpath (Continued on page 8)



## Flooding (cont'd.)

(Continued from page 4)

Floods are a type of natural disturbance that help 'reset' many ecological systems. Many plants and animals found in floodplains are adapted to such disturbances and benefit from periodic flooding. Flood waters recharge wetland areas with water and nutrients, scour out new wetland areas while filling others, and naturally meandering streams create new habitats for pioneer species. Trees that die or fall during floods become habitat for birds, bats, and other species.

Floods also recharge groundwater supplies and provide additional nutrients to agricultural areas.

### What are the negative effects of flooding for natural resources?

While flooding is a natural occurrence, the kind of flood regime observed in Cuyahoga Valley is not completely natural. Urban and suburban development in and around the valley have altered the flow regime of surface water systems and the effectiveness of floodplains.

Such development results in an increase in impervious surfaces (e.g., buildings, pavement), construction of diversion channels and culverts, channel dredging and realignment, and the drainage of wetlands. While benefiting local development, these changes result in stream flows that are above natural levels, causing greater ecological disturbance than would occur if areas were more natural. Ordinarily, water would make its way to streams and rivers via soil percolation and wetland filtration much more slowly.

*This article is a compilation of information from CVNP Ecologist Kevin Skerl and Environment Canada's website [www.ec.gc.ca/water/en/manage/floodgen/e\\_natur.htm](http://www.ec.gc.ca/water/en/manage/floodgen/e_natur.htm).*

## Science and Resource Management Interns

The Division of Science and Resource Management (SRM) of Cuyahoga Valley National Park welcomes International Volunteer, Mariamar Gutierrez of Nicaragua, working with us for the summer.

**Mariamar Gutierrez** comes to us from Nicaragua where she is a student in Biology at the National University of Nicaragua. Mariamar is an International VIP supported by the *Park Flight* program of the National Park Service, in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the National Park Foundation, with generous support from American Airlines. The *Park Flight* program was initiated in 2001 to foster better monitoring, management, and protection of migratory bird species all along the migratory route, by establishing connections among national parks in the U.S., Mexico, and Central America. CVNP is one of only 10 Park Flight parks in the U.S. Mariamar has extensive experience monitoring birds in a cloud forest at

the top of a dormant volcano in the Mombacho Natural Reserve of Nicaragua. While here in CVNP Mariamar will participate in a number of projects conducted by CVNP in cooperation with Cleveland Metroparks and the University of Akron, including several studies focused on birds in grassland and shrub habitats and a survey of habitat quality for Blanding's turtles throughout Northeast Ohio.

SCA Intern Mariamar Gutierrez.



## Have You Logged Your VIP Hours?

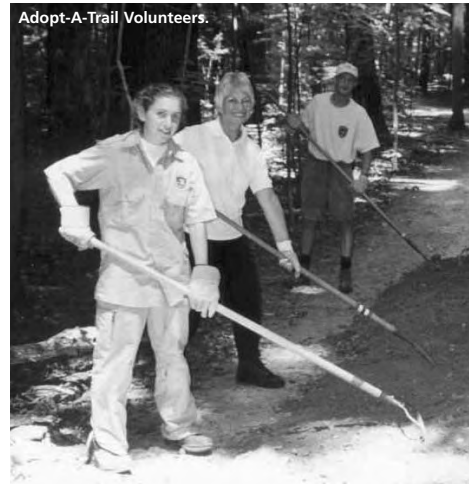
The CVNP volunteer office tracks VIP hours by individual, group, and program. But why?

Under new NPS policy all volunteer programs are funded based on the number of volunteers and the hours that they contribute. At the end of the year, hours are reported to the Volunteer Office in Washington, DC. where fund allotment to NPS VIP programs nationwide is determined. It is essential that VIPs report their hours so that CVNP's program can continue to flourish.

Please make sure that you are recording your hours on a monthly sign-in sheet. If you have not been reporting your hours, please contact

your volunteer supervisor or the volunteer office at (440) 546-5996 or [cuva\\_vip\\_coordinator@nps.gov](mailto:cuva_vip_coordinator@nps.gov).

Adopt-A-Trail Volunteers.





National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley National Park  
15610 Vaughn Road  
Brecksville, OH 44141

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

For a large-type version of this publication, call (440) 546-5991 or (800) 433-1986, ext. 5991.

The Valley Volunteer is a publication of Cuyahoga Valley National Park's Volunteers-In-Parks Program.

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[www.dayinthevalley.com/](http://www.dayinthevalley.com/)



Cuyahoga Valley  
National Park

## Volunteer Opportunities (cont'd.)

(Continued from page 6)  
Trail Maintenance Fund, offering the Towpath Tag as a thank you gift. Set up and take down a display table at designated locations. Must have a friendly demeanor, the ability to easily start conversations, and advocate for the park. Training will be provided. 3-4 hour shifts twice a month, May through October time commitment requested. Volunteer will be responsible for signing up for scheduled shifts. Contact Joanna Caley at (330) 657-2909 ext. 106.

**Special Event Planning Assistant** - Assist CVNP and CVNPA staff in planning and implementing special events. Duties include, reserving venue for the event, preparing materials for registration, gathering supplies and equipment, coordinating parking plans & assignments, reserving transportation and lodging for performing artists, organizing volunteer support, working with caterer, assisting with press releases, and media coverage. Must have strong communication skills, be well organized, and flexible. Training will be provided. Eight hours per week time commitment requested. Contact Colleen Brown at (440) 546-5992.

**Invasive Plant Management Assistant** - Volunteer works as part of a crew to manually control invasive plants. Weekly opportunities will be available. On-the-job training will be provided. Contact the Volunteer Office at (440) 546-5996.

**Sewing Volunteers** - Help make and repair historic costumes. Materials will

be provided. Contact Bridget Strong at (330) 657-2796 ext. 116.

**Management Volunteer** - Create spreadsheet for all park agreements and transfer data from computer to cell phone. Weekdays, 2-hour increments. MS Excel experience requested. Contact Jennifer McMahon at (440) 546-5908.

**Polar Express** - Spread holiday cheer by reading *Polar Express* book, serving cocoa and treats, and leading holiday songs. Contact Pamela Machuga at (330) 657-1914.



Bird Count Volunteers. Photo by Hedy Jones.